



Connect

Newsletter for

St. Catherine and St. Mary Parishes

Volume 3, Issue 2.....Winter 2008/2009

St. Catherine's
203 E. Brown St.
Luverne, MN

St. Mary's
204 N. Broadway
Ellsworth, MN

"Celebrating the Saints"

By Amber Walgrave

St. Blaise
Feast Day: February 3
Patron of Throat Ill-
nesses, Wild Animals

Many Catholics might remember Saint Blaise's feast day because of the Blessing of the Throats that took place on this day. Two candles are blessed, held slightly open, and pressed against the throat as the blessing is said. Saint Blaise's protection of those with throat troubles apparently comes from a legend that a boy was brought to him who had a fish bone stuck in his throat. The boy was about to die when Saint Blaise healed him.

Very few facts are known about Saint Blaise. We believe he was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia who was martyred under the reign of

Licinius in the early fourth century.

The legend of his life that sprang up in the eighth century tell us that he was born in to a rich and noble family who raised him as a Christian. After becoming a bishop, a new persecution of Christians began. He received a message from God to go into the hills to escape persecution. Men hunting in the mountains discovered a cave surrounded by wild animals that were sick. Among them Blaise walked unafraid, curing them of their illnesses. Recognizing Blaise as a bishop, they captured him to take him back for trial. On the way back, he talked a wolf into releasing a pig that belonged to a poor woman. When Blaise was sentenced to be starved to death, the woman, in gratitude, sneaked into the prison with food and candles. Finally Blaise was killed by the governor.

Blaise is the patron saint of wild animals because of his care for them and of those with throat maladies.

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex>

The staff of
"Connect"
want to wish
everyone of
St. Mary's
and
St. Catherine's



a blessed
Christmas and
a happy
2009!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH ACTIVITIES
▪ Dec. 21st Caroling & Gift Exchange, 4:00
▪ Dec. 31st Progressive Supper & Games, 6:00-9:00 PM
Location: Mike & Wanda Jarchow's House

